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March 20

Post - Museum

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Curios and Relics

Clothing Accessories

Pipe Owned by Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Pipe

Oakland June 29th '37

Mr H. E. Barker.

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter
of June 15th of which I
ask pardon for my
seeming neglect, would
say that I am send-
ing the Picture of
Abraham Lincoln
asking only a fair
price for something
that has been in the
hands of Abraham
Lincoln.

I am very sorry
I hav'nt the beautiful
large white Murcham
Pipe he also gave
my father at the
time. but later it

was admired by General
Nelson Miles U.S.A.,
so my father presented
it to him.

Let me ask if you are
a collector of other rare
articles, as I have quite
a few I might interest
you. Hoping this may
reach you safely
I am

Sincerely
Mrs Ella B. Luty.

PHOTOCOPY
(original in safe)

5/11/18 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pipe Once Given Lincoln Is Owned by Pittsburgher

A large, hand-carved pipe, once presented to President Lincoln, is now the cherished heirloom of a young Pittsburgher.

"Maybe it is because Lincoln didn't smoke that the relic has been handed down to me," Elmer Rodgers, dairy truck driver, of 728 Melbourne St., said.

Made of cherry, the large pipe is profusely carved with a replica of Lincoln splitting rails with a log cabin in the background. A scroll carved across the pipe bowl bears the inscription "Made by B. F. H. Luce, Co. A. Fifth Wisconsin Volunteers, Fredericksburg, Va., Mar. 4, 1863." A finely carved eagle spreads its wings over an emblem containing 15 stars.

President Lincoln, according to the story handed down with the relic, gave the pipe to a White House gardener. Mr. Rodgers grandfather, John Rodgers, then a youth, made his home with the gardener and assisted him with the duties at the White House.

When the elder Rodgers left Washington to come to Pittsburgh in the late 1800s, the old gardener presented him the pipe and he in turn gave it to his son, John Rodgers Jr., a number of years ago.

At Mr. Rodgers' death 12 years ago the pipe passed into the possession of his son, Elmer, its present owner.

Now it is slated to pass again to a John Rodgers—Elmer's two-year-old son.

A heavy caking in the pipe is evidence that somewhere along the line it was smoked frequently. The large bowl is well preserved and colored by age. The stem is missing.

"I wouldn't take a chance on



ELMER RODGERS

President Lincoln once owned this pipe

smoking it, anyway." Mr. Rodgers said. "It probably packs more of a wallop than an old-time horse pistol."



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